

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
AARON KLIATCHKO

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Master Sergeant Aaron Kliatchko, who proudly served his country during two World Wars and was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and the Medal of Freedom. He was killed in action on December 31, 1944. Master Sergeant Aaron Kliatchko, the "Rabbi of Cabanatuan," was honored with a formal military funeral on Friday, June 29, 2018 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Kliatchko was born in 1887 to an Orthodox Jewish family. As a teenager, he was forced to serve in the Russian Imperial Army during the Russo-Japanese War, where he was taken prisoner by Imperial Japan. After the war, Kliatchko migrated to the United States and enlisted in the Army, becoming a U.S. citizen in July 1913. After moving to the Army Corps of Engineers in 1914, Corporal Kliatchko deployed to the Philippine Islands in November 1915, where he served the duration of World War I. He was honorably discharged in 1919 and remained in the Philippines until World War II.

When the Japanese invaded in December 1941, Kliatchko volunteered as an American intelligence agent. By March 1942, Kliatchko was fighting the invading Japanese on the Bataan peninsula. There, he reenlisted with the Army Corps of Engineers as a Master Sergeant. He was in Bataan for the U.S. surrender on April 9, 1942. Once again, Kliatchko was a prisoner of the Imperial Japanese military, surviving the Bataan Death March and two prisoner of war camps. He led his fellow prisoners and brothers in arms in Jewish services and funerals, earning himself the title "Rabbi of Cabanatuan."

On December 13, 1944, Kliatchko and 1,600 prisoners were forced to board the Japanese "hellship" *Oryoku Maru*, destined for slave labor in Japan. After it was sunk near Subic Bay by American bombers, the survivors, including Kliatchko, were forced on-board two other hellships to continue the voyage north. Kliatchko succumbed to wounds received during the ordeal on December 31, 1944, aboard the *Brazil Maru* as it arrived in Takeo Harbor, Formosa. His final resting place is unknown.

In 1948, Master Sergeant Kliatchko was posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom. Like so many immigrants who came to America, his service and sacrifice embodies their unique commitment to liberty and democracy. God bless him always.

HONORING MRS. GLORIA
RICHMOND JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gloria Richmond Jackson.

Gloria Richmond Jackson came into this world on a windy day in March of 1957. She is the eleventh of thirteen children born to Floyd and Earnestine Richmond. She spent her early years on the Adams Plantation, three miles southwest of Lambert, Mississippi in Quitman County.

She left the State of Mississippi in 1972, and spent 33 years living in Louisiana, Texas, California and Illinois. In 2005, the Lord led her back to Lambert to work with the youth; but the true blessing of her return was the loving and nurturing relationship that developed between her and her mother who passed away July 17, 2011.

Jackson's mission quickly led her to become immersed in community work. In June 2005, she began working with the youth at the North Delta Youth Development Center in Lambert. As Director of The Children's Village Project, she encouraged them by sharing her story of trials and triumphs in an attempt to assist them with healthy development.

Jackson is proud of her southern upbringing and credits a lot of her accomplishments as a direct result of having a wonderful mother. She describes her mother as being, "Mississippi Strong." Her mother wasn't afraid to get involved with the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. She worked with others to help get African Americans registered to vote in Quitman County. She even defied the Superintendent of Education's warning, that if any of the school bus drivers participated in a Freedom March with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they would be fired. She marched, but kept her job as a Bus Driver for the elementary school in Lambert.

Mrs. Earnestine Richmond's positive impact wasn't limited to only a few of her children: Her first-born daughter, Tressie Richmond Woods, in 1965 became the first African American to work as a Loan Officer for the Quitman County Farmers Home Administration, located in Marks, Mississippi.

Her daughter, Evon Richmond Ector, participated in the now famous, "Poor People's Mule Train March to Washington" in 1968.

Her daughter Mae Richmond Mosley was the first African American to become Vice President of Human Resources for Briggs and Stratton Engines Corporation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 2003 to 2007 when she retired.

Gloria Richmond Jackson, her youngest daughter, was the first African American to attend Lambert Jr. High School in 1969. Five of Mrs. Richmond's sons have owned businesses: Edgar Richmond (Automotive Repair Shop) Chicago, Illinois. Benjamin and Leo Richmond, co-owners (Bar and Lounge) Chicago, Illinois. Charles Richmond (Vending Machine Service Company, St. Louis, Missouri) and a Home Health Service Company with locations in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri. James Richmond currently owns an Automotive Towing Service in Wellston, Missouri.

Jackson was appointed to the position of Town Clerk for Lambert, June 13, 2016. Prior to her appointment as Town Clerk, she was employed with Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Inc. of Lambert, Mississippi for eight years. There she worked as a Data Research Associate and Abstinence Educator in the Quitman, South Panola and Coahoma Municipal School Districts.

Her career with American Airlines began at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois in 1989; it

spanned for over fifteen years. She started out at American while working evenings in Facilities Maintenance, concurrently attending Catherine Business College at night. After graduation, she was promoted to Ticket Counter Agent, two years later she was promoted to Sales Support Representative, and later she accepted the position of City Ticket Office Sales Representative until 2001. At that time she returned to Chicago O'Hare Airport to fill a position as Premium Service Representative in the very same office where she once worked as a janitor (Facilities Maintenance). Following a seven-year leave from American Airlines, she returned to work at AA in 2012, commuting from Lambert to Chicago for seven months. She retired May 13, 2013 after fifteen years of dutiful service.

Jackson is a Baptist Minister and Assistant Pastor, Sunday School Teacher and Lecturer at Pleasant Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Lambert, Mississippi under the leadership of Pastor Reginald Griffin.

She is a Published Author, "Leaving Lambert" (a painful journey to joy in God from a small Mississippi town) Inspirational Speaker, Certified Abstinence Educator, Data Researcher and Retired Premium Service Representative.

Jackson also entered into the political arena where she ran for Quitman County Tax Assessor and also ran for Chancery Clerk. She remains engaged in community activities, writing, her church ministry and mentoring the youth of Quitman County.

In December 2010, Jackson married Robert L. Jackson, Mississippi State Senator for District 11. They have a blended family of six children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gloria Richmond Jackson for her dedication in serving her community.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF
PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) and to congratulate the recipients of its Annual Awards of Excellence. Founded in 1989, the mission of GOPIO was battling human rights violations committed against persons of Indian origin. Today, while that mission continues, GOPIO has also broadened its mission to include pooling resources of persons of Indian origin for the benefit of not only themselves and their Indian homeland, but also the communities they currently reside in.

Indian-Americans have made countless contributions to the United States in the fields of business, education, medicine, science, technology, and public service while preserving and sharing their culture in a manner that promotes tolerance and mutual understanding.

Many of our awardees tonight have been at the forefront of those efforts. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals: